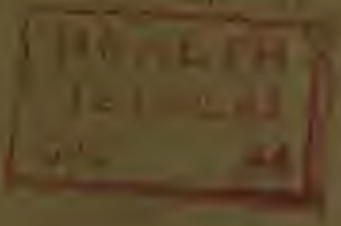


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BELPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1943.

TOM BROWN (BELPER) LTD., PRINTERS.

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BELPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1943.

RICHARD CLAYTON ALLEN, M.R.C.S. (Eng.),
L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Birm.).

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

FRANCIS COSTELLO, A.R. San. I., Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,
Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods.

Chairman of Council—
COUN. F. WAINWRIGHT, J.P.

Chairman of Health Committee—
COUN. J. W. BLACKHAM.

Clerk to Council—
MR. J. PERCY R. PYM.

General Statistics.

Area of District in Acres—4,294.

Rateable Value—£76,306.

General Rate for 1943—12/-

Product of a Penny Rate—£306.

Total Debt for all purposes—£115,534/19/8.

Debt for Housing only—£80,502/15/2.

Number of Houses on Rate Book (no houses erected during
1943)—3,934.

Number of Live Births registered : Boys 106, Girls 123—229.

Number of Illegitimate Births : Boys 3, Girls 1—4.

Still Births : Males 5, Females 7—12.

Deaths of Infants under One Year : Boys 4, Girls 6—10.

Total Number of Deaths : Males 87, Females 80—167.

Death Rate for 1,000 of population—11.8.

Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births—48.03.

(Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales—49)

RIVERSDALE,
BELPER,
June, 1944.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Belper Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my 23rd Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the District. The Report is for the year ended 31st December, 1943.

War-time conditions have again made it necessary to keep the Report short, and in accordance with Ministry of Health instructions, references to Population, Industries and occupation of the inhabitants are not considered.

During the year progress continued in the immunisation of children against diphtheria, and on the 31st December last, 460 children under 5 years, and 1,284 between 5—15 had received the full treatment. It is pleasing to note that there were only 2 cases of diphtheria in the whole of the year, neither of which had been immunised. This compares with 3 in 1942—5 each for the two previous years, whilst there were 42 cases in 1939. Both the above mentioned cases were mild in character and soon recovered.

Scarlet Fever cases show a welcome reduction, 32 cases being the lowest figure I have known for this district, and compares with 80 for 1942 and 53 for the previous year. The majority of the cases were mild in character and soon recovered, but there was one case which proved fatal.

Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases may be considered satisfactory since they are the lowest for 10 years and considering War-time conditions, this is very gratifying. The Tuberculosis Dispensary at the County Offices, Derby, is open on Friday of each week for the treatment of patients, who are also visited at their homes by the Tuberculosis Officer and the Health Visitor. Advice concerning the new Allowances Scheme may also be obtained at the Dispensary.

The number of cases of notifiable diseases are less than one third for the year previous and are the lowest for at least ten years. Measles, Erysipelas and Pneumonia show welcome reductions and there were no cases of Typhoid, Dysentery or Puerperal Pyrexia. Further comparisons can be made on the tables which show the incidence of Infectious Disease for 6 years.

Free private treatment can be obtained at the Derby Infirmary by persons suffering from Venereal Disease. Patients should, however, obtain a letter from their private Doctor before presenting themselves. All local Doctors will give advice as to times and places of treatment.

The County Council School Clinic at Field Lane is visited each week, and treatment given by Dental and Ophthalmic Surgeons. The Ante-natal clinic is also held there on the 2nd and 4th Monday Mornings of each month.

The Council's arrangement for the treatment of Scabies has proved very satisfactory, and we are fortunate in having the part-time services of Nurse Goldbourne to treat such cases. The local doctors notify me of any cases they have and the Nurse visits and gives treatment, the Council providing the materials and paying the Nurse's fees. During the year 46 cases were treated and re-visited later to make sure recovery was in full.

The Council's water services have been well maintained and the public are fortunate in being so well served, the quality of the water is high and the analysts reports show that it is exceedingly pure. The Council's other services have also been very satisfactory and we have no reason to complain of these services which the public have received.

Your Sanitary Inspector and I have made numerous visits to farms, Food Premises and Domestic Premises, the necessary action being taken in all cases where required. A number of warnings have been given, all of which would appear to have been taken note of. Many housing defects and nuisances have been dealt with and the housing position, while it tends to deteriorate as the War lengthens, is good in comparison with most towns.

So far as I am aware there are no matters requiring your immediate attention, but I may have more to say when the end of the War is in sight.

On the following pages you will find certain figures and comparisons, and I take this opportunity to thank the Members of the Council, the Clerk (Mr. J. Percy R. Pym), and the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. F. Costello) for their help and co-operation during the past year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

RICHARD C. ALLEN,
Medical Officer of Health.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the rise and fall of the various notifiable diseases during the past six years :

| | 1938 | 1939 | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 6 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 13 | 7 |
| Non-pulmonary ditto | 5 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 2 |
| Scarlet Fever | 44 | 40 | 67 | 53 | 80 | 32 |
| Diphtheria | 14 | 42 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| Erysipelas | 4 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 4 |
| Pneumonia | 6 | 6 | 8 | 11 | 2 | 1 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Para Typhoid Fever | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever | - | - | 6 | 3 | - | - |
| Tubercular Meningitis | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Measles | - | - | 31 | 264 | 197 | 42 |
| Whooping Cough | - | 14 | 3 | 40 | 4 | 8 |
| Totals | 81 | 126 | 138 | 393 | 311 | 99 |

During the year 167 persons died—87 males and 80 females--an increase of 17 over the year previous and 1 on the year 1941. The death rate was 11.8, compared with 10.25 in 1942, and 11.16 in 1941. (The Death Rate for England and Wales was 12.1).

The following tables give the causes of the deaths registered in 1942.

| | M. | F. |
|------------------------------|----|----|
| Scarlet Fever | — | 1 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 4 | 1 |
| Other Tuberculosis | 1 | — |
| Influenza | 1 | 1 |
| Cancer | 13 | 14 |
| Diabetes | 2 | 1 |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage | 6 | 11 |
| Heart disease | 28 | 18 |
| Other circulatory disease | 2 | 4 |
| Bronchitis | 3 | 4 |
| Pneumonia | 3 | 2 |
| Ulcer of Stomach or Deodenum | — | 1 |
| Appendicitis | 1 | — |
| Other digestive disorders | 3 | 1 |
| Nephritis | 4 | 7 |
| Premature Birth | 1 | 4 |
| Congenital debility, | 2 | 3 |
| Suicide | 1 | 1 |
| Road Traffic accident | — | 1 |
| Other violent causes | 2 | 1 |
| All Other causes | 10 | 4 |
| Total | 87 | 80 |

Births registered during the year totalled 229—106 males 123 females. The total represents a decrease of 10 compared with the previous year, and an increase of 37 over 1941, The birth rate was 16.18 as against 16.33 in 1942, and 12.7 during 1941. There were 12 still-births, a increase of two. (Birth Rate for England and Wales was 16.5).

Cases of notifiable diseases at varying ages during 1943.

| DISEASE. | <i>Under 1 year.</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | <i>Total</i> |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| | ... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 35 | 45 | 60 | |
| Scarlet Fever | ... | 1 | 3 | ... | 3 | 12 | 6 | 4 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | 32 |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Measles | ... | 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 12 | 11 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 42 |
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 4 | ... | ... | 7 |
| Non ditto | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Erysipelas | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Totals | 3 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 10 | 28 | 20 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 99 |

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

It is my privilege to present my Fourth Annual Report, which is for the year ended 31st December, 1943.

The work of the Department increases and I find that the greater portion of my time is taken up with clerical work. In the near future I feel that the Council will have to consider giving me some clerical assistance, apart from correspondence, records and notices, etc., the number of Returns, Reports and Forms which have to be completed for the various Ministry Departments take up more and more time as the War lengthens.

It has been possible to have quite a lot of housing repairs carried out and many nuisances abated, particulars below :—

Notices Complied With.

| | | |
|---|--------|-----|
| Conversion of Tippler-closets into Water closets | ... | 1 |
| New W.C. Basins to replace broken ones | ... .. | 4 |
| New W.C. Cisterns to replace broken ones | ... .. | 2 |
| Other repairs to Closets | ... .. | 8 |
| Defective or choked drains made good | ... .. | 12 |
| New firegrates fixed | ... .. | 2 |
| Repairs to firegrates (e.g. Ovens, side-boilers) | ... .. | 8 |
| Repairs to roof spouting and down pipes | ... .. | 4 |
| Defective roofs repaired | ... .. | 16 |
| Defective plasterwork made good | ... .. | 11 |
| Handrails provided to stairs | ... .. | 2 |
| New windows fixed | ... .. | 3 |
| Repairs to windows, including sash-cords | ... .. | 8 |
| New doors fixed | ... .. | 2 |
| Repairs to doors | ... .. | 4 |
| Provision of washing accommodation | ... .. | 1 |
| Repairs to Bedroom floors | ... .. | 3 |
| Provision of Foodstores | ... .. | 2 |
| Pointing of walls to abate dampness | ... .. | 8 |
| Cement rendering to abate dampness | ... .. | 4 |
| Dirty and verminous houses cleaned and fumigated | ... .. | 4 |
| Animals improperly kept | ... .. | 2 |
| Repairs to chimney stacks | ... .. | 3 |
| New chimney pots | ... .. | 4 |
| Renewals of dustbins | ... .. | 225 |
| Water laid on to houses previously supplied by a "Well" | 1 | |
| Payments of Excess Rent refunded | ... .. | 4 |

Inspections and re-visits with regard to the above work, together with inspections of Farms, Cowsheds, Food Premises and Drainage Works, amounted to 1, 210.

Closet Accommodation.

At the end of 1943 there were : 3,264 Water Closets.
342 Pail Closets.
142 Privy Middens.

One tippler closet was converted to the water carriage system during the year. I would point out that there is much scope for improvement in this direction. No doubt the Council will consider improving the above state of affairs in their Post War Planning Schemes, since a great many of the pail closets are reasonably near to the sewers and water supply. I would further mention the Makeney Area where there are 20 houses each with pail closets. The sewers are up to the buildings and each closet could conveniently be connected up. Water is supplied from the Belper Rural District, but I am informed by their Water Bailiff that they have not sufficient water to spare for water closets.

The Sanitary Accommodation at one factory was condemned as unreasonable and unsatisfactory. New buildings were being erected at the end of the year.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Despite labour difficulties, almost a weekly collection prevailed throughout the district. The refuse was disposed of as follows :—

| | Destructor. | Tip. |
|-------|-------------|------------|
| Wagon | 186 | 756 Loads. |
| Team | 728 | 89 Loads. |

I estimate that during the year 1,288 tons of refuse was disposed of at the Destructor, and 2,156 tons at the Goods Road Tip.

It will be seen from the foregoing that one man at the Tip dealt with more refuse than did two men at the Destructor. It was for this reason that I submitted a Report on the 28th April, 1943, suggesting that the Council consider in their Post War Scheme certain alterations to the Destructor. The alterations being mainly the providing of a screening and separation plant. (Full Report was handed to each Councillor). I regret that so far the Council have not found it convenient to discuss these proposals and trust that later it may come up as a Post War Scheme.

The Council sold more than one gross of dustbins during the year and a further 225 were provided after an intimation from me. Thirteen Statutory Notices were served for the provision of dustbins. The district at present is not too

badly placed for refuse storage accommodation and this of course is helpful to the refuse collectors.

Salvage work took up much time and trouble, 310 tons of salvage sold realised £1,127 of which more than £300 was profit.

Water Supplies.

During the year your Waterworks Engineer took a number of samples from the different supplies, all of which satisfied the Analysts Tests. All Towns water is now chlorinated and only a few isolated houses are not connected to the the Public Supplies.

Water was laid on to a farm house and buildings after the " Well " which was more than 100 yards away had been condemned as unsatisfactory. All other private supplies are tested from time to time.

Public Baths.

A number of visits were made and the water on all occasions appeared to be satisfactory. Two samples were analysed and proved that the chlorination plant was being well looked after and the water was completely sterile.

Inspection and Supervision of Foodstuffs.

During the year the following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Corned Beef—190 lbs. Sugar—69 lbs. Butter—89 lbs. Cake—34 lbs. Eggs—547. Cheese—5 lbs. Chopped Canned Ham—62 lbs. Pork Luncheon Meat—289 lbs. Tinned Sausage Meat—26 lbs. Other Tinned Foodstuffs—548. Fish—40 lbs. Sultanas—20 lbs. Beef—21 lbs. Tongues—18 lbs. Oatmeal—139 lbs. Bacon—157 lbs. Flour—11½ cwts.

The policy of the Ministry in replacing " Points " and the Wholesalers in replacing any food which is condemned, is very helpful and encourages the shopkeeper to place on side for inspection by me any doubtful food.

A prosecution was undertaken by the Council against three persons for trimming, preparing and selling Knacker Meat for human consumption in a catering establishment. The cases resulted in two of the persons being sentenced each to six months imprisonment and ordered to pay all costs.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Ninety-two inspections were made and as a result of Notices being served, 12 cowsheds were limewashed, 3 cow-

sheds were re-modelled, new windows and floors being provided and also a dairy at a farm previously without one. Generally speaking the cowsheds are not unreasonable. Four Statutory Notices were served during the year.

Twenty-six samples of milk were analysed for tuberculosis and also subjected to the Methylene Blue and B Coli Tests. Four samples were found to contain B. Coli and advice was given to the farmer in each case. Two samples produced tuberculosis in Guinea Pigs and the cattle at each farm were examined by the Ministry Veterinary Officers. In each case the diseased cow was found and slaughtered, subsequent samples proving satisfactory.

Infectious Diseases.

Forty-one houses were fumigated after infectious diseases and the usual enquiries made. Four other houses were fumigated for vermin infestation.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the help afforded me during the year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

F. COSTELLO,
Sanitary Inspector.

